

Security Information

Subject
330

OGC HAS REVIEWED.

Recorder of the Efficiency Awards Committee

22 October 1952

Office of the General Counsel

Employee Suggestion for Use of Convict Linguistic Services in Translation of Foreign Documents

1. You have requested our opinion as to whether there is any legal objection to the implementation of the subject employee suggestion. We have concerned ourselves only with legal obstacles and have given no consideration to what we might suppose to be administrative difficulties.

2. Section 686b(b) of Title 31 U.S.C. provides in part:

"Nothing in this section....shall be construed to authorize any Government department or independent establishment, or any bureau or office thereof, to place any orders for material, supplies, equipment, work, or services to be furnished or performed by convict labor, except as otherwise provided by existing law." Act of June 30, 1942, 47 Stat 418.

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4. We would interpret the exceptive clause in Section 686b(b) to refer to the use of convict labor in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 307 of Title 18, U.S.C., Sections 4121 et seq., providing for the administration of the Federal Prison Industries under the Attorney General. It is our opinion that if it is desirable to make use of convict labor, approach should be made to the Department of Justice with our proposed plan and their assistance requested in its implementation. We suspect from a reading of the cited sections that the

type of linguistic service sought would not be available. The law would clearly seem to prohibit direct contact by representatives of this Agency with Federal Prison officials.


Assistant General Counsel

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